

Numbers 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun.

Analysis

Ephraim's spy was 'Oshea the son of Nun' - later called Joshua. The name 'Oshea' (Hoshea) means 'salvation,' which Moses changed to 'Joshua' (Yehoshua), meaning 'Yahweh is salvation' (v.16). This name change foreshadowed Jesus (Greek form of Joshua), the ultimate Savior. Joshua, with Caleb, stood alone against majority unbelief, demonstrating that salvation requires faith despite opposition. His later leadership in conquering Canaan typified Christ leading believers into spiritual inheritance. Joshua's faithfulness as Moses' minister (Ex 24:13, 33:11) prepared him for leadership - faithful service in small things leads to greater responsibility (Matt 25:21).

Historical Context

Joshua was Moses' assistant from youth, witnessing God's glory on Sinai (Ex 24:13) and guarding the tabernacle (Ex 33:11). His military leadership began against Amalek (Ex 17:9-13), preparing for Canaan's conquest. Unlike other spies who were merely tribal leaders, Joshua was already Moses' chosen successor-in-training. His faithful report showed character that would sustain Israel through conquest. His name change by Moses (v.16) signified divine calling and identity - he wasn't merely human deliverer but instrument of Yahweh's salvation. The New Testament frequently compares Joshua and Jesus (Heb 4:8 uses same Greek name), showing how Joshua typologically foreshadowed Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Does your faith stand firm even when you're in the minority, or do you cave to majority pressure?
2. How does faithful service in current responsibilities prepare you for greater leadership God may assign?

Interlinear Text

לְמֹתָה הַיּוֹשֵׁב אֶפְרַיִם בְּן נָנָה
Of the tribe of Ephraim the son of Nun
H4294 H669 H1954 H1121 H5126

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 24:13 (Parallel theme): And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.

Numbers 11:28 (Parallel theme): And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.